

Reference: 02071766

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

29 September 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Radio Caroline.

We received this request on 1 September 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

Your request & our response

Can you please provide copies of documentation (not press cuttings) that you have on the return of offshore radio station Radio Caroline in August 1983 and any associated material you have.

We do hold some information falling within the scope of your request. However, we are unable to provide this information as we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the "appropriate limit". The appropriate limit is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the "Regulations"), and is, for Ofcom, £450. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the information requested, locating, retrieving and extracting the information from any document containing it. The Regulations provide that costs are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour, which equates to 18 hours of time.

The information we hold is in several boxes of unstructured paper documents and due to the date of the matter these documents relate to, some of these documents are also in process of being transferred to the National Archives. We therefore estimate that it would take over 18 hours to extract the information you have requested as this will include manual review of all the unstructured paper documents in the boxes and recall from the National Archives.

We may be able to consider a narrower request on a specific document you are looking for, however, please note that some exemptions may apply under the FOI Act including the cost limit mentioned above. We note that [the National Archives](#) do have information on Radio Caroline and you may wish to contact them.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

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Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress. Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).